

# FOREWORD AVANT-PROPOS PRÓLOGO

## ENGLISH

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This Publication has been prepared by the Technical Committee of the North American Laminate Flooring Association for use by manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, dealers, and consumers of laminate flooring. The terminology presented has been developed to provide a consistent language to be used when describing the manufacturing methods, composition of, and the performance attributes both physical and visual of laminate flooring.

This document is also periodically reviewed by the technical committee for any revisions necessary to keep them up to date with advancing technology. Any proposals, suggestions or revisions should be submitted to:

Technical Director ■ NALFA ■ 1747 Pennsylvania Ave. ■ Washington, DC 20006

## FRANÇAIS

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Ce lexique a été préparé le comité technique de l'Association des planchers stratifiés d'Amérique du Nord. Il est destiné aux fabricants, aux fournisseurs, aux distributeurs, aux dépositaires et aux utilisateurs de planchers stratifiés. La terminologie qu'il renferme devient ainsi la norme linguistique qui permet de décrire les méthodes de fabrication, la composition, les aspects mécaniques et visuels, ainsi que la performance des planchers stratifiés.

Ce lexique sera révisé périodiquement par le comité technique afin qu'il corresponde aux développements technologiques pertinents. Toute suggestion ou révision devra être soumise au :

Technical Director ■ NALFA ■ 1747 Pennsylvania Ave. ■ Washington, DC 20006

## ESPAÑOL

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Este léxico ha sido preparado por el Comité de Técnicos de la Asociación de Pisos Laminados de América del Norte. Está destinado para los fabricantes, proveedores, distribuidores, comerciantes, y consumidores de pisos laminados. La terminología presentada se ha desarrollado para permitir un lenguaje consistente que describe los métodos de fabricantes, la composición y los aspectos mecánicos y visuales así como el funcionamiento de los pisos laminados.

Este léxico será revisado periódicamente por el Comité de Técnicos para mantenerlo al día con las tecnologías avanzadas. Cualquier propuesta, sugerencia o revisión debe de someterse a:

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## SCOPE

This document shall apply to the manufacturing, commercial and residential use of laminate flooring, through the use of a classification system based on essential needs, general needs, code compliance, recommendations and optional needs. The document will be useful in guiding manufacturers and educating consumers. All term definitions are numbered and can be cross-referenced with the other languages.

## ÉTENDUE DU LEXIQUE

Ce lexique touche la fabrication et l'utilisation commerciale et résidentielle des planchers stratifiés. Le choix des termes étant fondé sur les besoins essentiels et généraux, la conformité au code, les recommandations et les besoins optionnels en ce qui a trait aux planchers stratifiés, ce document pourra guider les fabricants et informer les consommateurs. Les définitions des termes sont accompagnées de numéros qui renvoient aux termes dans les autres langues.

## ENTENDIMIENTO DEL LEXICO

Este léxico será aplicado para la fabricación, uso comercial y residencial de los pisos laminados a través del uso de un sistema de clasificación basado en las necesidades opcionales de los pisos laminados, este documento dará guía a los fabricantes y enseñará a los consumidores. Todas las definiciones de los términos están numeradas y pueden referirse de la misma forma en los diferentes idiomas.

## ENGLISH/TERM DEFINITION

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1. **Acclimatation:** Adaptation of the laminate floor to its installation environment.
2. **Acoustical Properties:** Absorbance, reflection or transmission of sound waves.
3. **Adhesion:** All the forces which exist to join two similar or dissimilar materials in contact.
4. **Antistatic:** Ability to limit the accumulation of static electricity on a surface.
5. **Backer:** A material bonded to the back of panels.
6. **Balanced Construction:** A panel construction that has materials of similar properties bonded to both sides of the panel.
7. **Bond:** Adhesion.
8. **Chemical Resistance:** The degree to which a material resists to corrosive action of various household and/or industrial chemicals.
9. **Colorfastness:** The ability of a material to withstand color change on exposure to light (e.g. light resistance).
10. **Compact Laminate:** A high pressure laminate with a thickness(es) greater than or equal to 2 mm.
11. **Continuous Laminate:** A manufacturing process where the laminate is formed on a continuous double-belted press.
12. **Continuous Laminate Flooring:** A product created by permanently bonding continuous laminate to a core.
13. **Core:** The center of a panel (e.g. surface layer, core, backer).
14. **Crook:** A specific type of warping when a panel has a curvature from end to end, edgewise, from a straight line (e.g. banana).
15. **Crowning:** A specific type of warping when a panel assumes the shape of an inverted "U" lengthwise or width across the face (e.g. convex).
16. **Cupping:** A specific type of warping when a panel becomes "U" shaped lengthwise or width across the face (e.g. concave).

ENGLISH

FRANÇAIS

ESPAÑOL

17. Decor Layer: The layer of laminate flooring providing visual aesthetic properties.
18. Deflection: The bending of a material between supports when a load is applied.
19. Delaminating: Separation of the panel's layer(s).
20. Density: Weight of a panel as weight in lb/ft<sup>3</sup> or kg/m<sup>3</sup>.
21. Depression: A dent in the surface of a panel.
22. Dimensional Stability: The ability of a material to resist changes caused by environmental factors (e.g. moisture or temperature).
23. Direct Laminating Flooring: A product where resin impregnated material layer(s) is permanently bonded to the core.
24. Embossing: A process by which the surface texture of the panel is given a texture.
25. Equilibrium Moisture Content: The moisture content at which the material neither gains nor loses moisture at a given relative humidity.
26. Expansion Gap: A space necessary between fixed objects, i.e. walls of a room, pipes and cabinets, and between the material itself to allow for the movement of the material.
- ✓27. Fiberboard: A core material primarily composed of cellulose fibers combined with synthetic resins or other suitable bonding systems under heat and pressure. The materials are usually designated as low, medium or high density (e.g. MDF or HDF).
28. Flame Spread: Measurement of the flame propagation along the surface of a material.
29. Floating Floor: Installation method where the flooring panels are connected together and not attached to the subfloor.
- ✓30. (HDF) High Density Fiberboard: A fiberboard with density greater than 50 pounds per cubic foot or 800 kg per cubic meter.
31. High Pressure Laminate: A laminating process where materials are consolidated under heat and pressure exceeding 750 psi or 5.1 mpa.
32. High Pressure Laminate Flooring: A product created by permanently bonding high-pressure decorative laminate to a core.

33. **Impact Resistance:** Ability to resist fracture or damage from a falling object.
34. **Inlay:** A decorative effect used in flooring by combining elements of the same material but with different colors or patterns, e.g. border or feature strip.
35. **Laminate:** A product made by bonding together two or more layers of material.
36. **Laminate Flooring:** A rigid floor covering with a surface layer consisting of one or more thin sheets of a fibrous material (usually paper), impregnated with aminoplastic thermosetting resins (usually melamine). These sheets are either pressed as such (HPL, CPL, Compact), and in the case of HPL or CPL bonded on a substrate, or in the case of DPL directly pressed on a substrate. The product is normally finished with a backing primarily used as a balancing material. Its performance values are set by the NALFA Standard.
- ✓ 37. **(MDF) Medium Density Fiberboard :** A type of core material primarily composed of lignocellulosic fibers combined with a synthetic resin or other suitable bonding system and bonded together under heat and pressure.
38. **Melamine Resin:** A thermosetting resin used in the impregnation process of materials used to make laminate flooring.
39. **Moisture Content:** The amount of water in the material, expressed as a percentage of the dry weight.
40. **Moisture Meter:** A tool used to measure moisture content.
41. **Overlay:** A product of paper, plastic, film, metal foil, or other material incorporated into laminate flooring that provides the wear resistance and protection.
42. **Panels:** Finished sections of the laminate flooring, e.g. planks, tiles, squares.
- ✓ 43. **Particleboard:** A core material primarily composed of cellulosic materials (usually wood), generally in the form of discrete pieces or particles, as distinguished from fibers. The cellulosic material is combined with a synthetic resin or other suitable bonding system by a process in which the interparticle bond is created by the bonding system under heat and pressure.

44. Pattern End Matched:	When the ends of the flooring panels, typically similar patterns, are matched end to end to yield a continuous linear effect.
45. Peaking:	Areas of the laminate flooring at adjoining panel seams that have raised above the intended horizontal plane of the flooring surface.
46. Plank:	A tile approximately five or six times longer than wide.
47. Pressing:	A manufacturing process whereby material layers are consolidated using pressure.
48. Residual Indentation:	Difference between the initial thickness after the removal of a load and recovery from indentation.
49. Resins:	A polymeric material used for impregnating and bonding layers of laminate flooring.
50. Seams:	A line of junction where panels are connected together.
51. Stain Resistance:	The degree which a material resists permanent discoloration from exposure to household items.
52. Substrate:	Core.
53. Subfloor:	A pre-existing supporting surface in a structure.
54. Surface Layer:	The outermost layer of laminate flooring designed to be the visible side when installed (e.g. wear layer).
55. Tile:	A panel of geometric shapes (e.g. squares, rectangles, etc.).
56. Thermosetting Resins:	Resins that cure by chemical reaction to form bonds and do not melt when exposed to heat.
57. Thermofusing:	A process where resins are consolidated under heat and pressure to create a permanent bonding.
58. Underlayment:	A material used between the laminate flooring and the subfloor (e.g. foam padding).
59. Warp:	Crowning, cupping or crook.
60. Wear Resistance:	Ability of the laminate flooring surface to resist wear through to the decor layer.
61. Wear Layer:	Surface layer.